

**ASSEMBLY, No. 3644**

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**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

**218th LEGISLATURE**

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INTRODUCED MARCH 12, 2018

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman BOB ANDRZEJCZAK**

**District 1 (Atlantic, Cape May and Cumberland)**

**Assemblyman ROY FREIMAN**

**District 16 (Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex and Somerset)**

**Assemblyman CLINTON CALABRESE**

**District 36 (Bergen and Passaic)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman Land**

**SYNOPSIS**

Permits agriculture-related events on preserved farmland.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 12/18/2018)**

1 AN ACT concerning certain events on preserved farmland and  
2 supplementing P.L.1983, c.32 (C.4:1C-11 et seq.).  
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4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State  
5 of New Jersey:  
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7 1. a. No person may hold an agriculture-related event on  
8 preserved farmland without the owner of the land first obtaining a  
9 permit therefor from the county agriculture development board  
10 pursuant to subsection b. of this section.

11 b. Any county agriculture development board may issue a  
12 permit to the owner of preserved farmland in the county for an  
13 agriculture-related event to be held on the farm, provided that:

14 (1) no more than four such permits may be issued for the farm  
15 per year;

16 (2) the duration of each permit and event is either one week or  
17 one weekend as defined in the permit; and

18 (3) the event only temporarily disturbs the use of the land for  
19 agricultural or horticultural purposes, and does not interfere with  
20 the use of the land for those purposes after the event has concluded.

21 c. Holding an agriculture-related event for which a permit has  
22 been issued pursuant to subsection a. of this section shall not be  
23 considered a violation of any agricultural deed restriction for  
24 farmland preservation on the land, provided the person holding the  
25 event complies with the terms and conditions of the permit issued  
26 pursuant to subsection a. of this section.

27 d. As used in this section:

28 "Agriculture-related event" means a festival or other event  
29 taking place once or a few times in a year on a specific day or  
30 specific consecutive days featuring an activity or group of activities  
31 highlighting an agricultural or horticultural practice or product  
32 implemented or grown on a farm. "Agriculture-related event" shall  
33 include, but not necessarily be limited to, hay bale races, flower  
34 shows, pumpkin tossing and "punkin chunkin" festivals, tractor  
35 pulls, and similar activities.

36 "Preserved farmland" means land on which a development  
37 easement was conveyed to, or retained by, the State Agriculture  
38 Development Committee, a county agriculture development board,  
39 a county, a municipality, or a qualifying tax exempt nonprofit  
40 organization pursuant to the provisions of section 24 of P.L.1983,  
41 c.32 (C.4:1C-31), section 5 of P.L.1988, c.4 (C.4:1C-31.1), section  
42 1 of P.L.1989, c.28 (C.4:1C-38), section 1 of P.L.1999,  
43 c.180 (C.4:1C-43.1), sections 37 through 40 of P.L.1999,  
44 c.152 (C.13:8C-37 through C.13:8C-40), or any other State law  
45 enacted for farmland preservation purposes.  
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47 2. This act shall take effect the 180th day after the date of  
48 enactment of this act, but a county agriculture development board

1 may take any anticipatory administrative action in advance thereof  
2 as shall be necessary for the implementation of the act.

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STATEMENT

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7 This bill provides that a person may hold an agriculture-related  
8 event on preserved farmland if the owner of the land first obtains a  
9 permit from the county agriculture development board to hold such  
10 an event. The bill defines “agriculture-related event” as a festival  
11 or other event taking place once or a few times in a year on a  
12 specific day or specific consecutive days featuring an activity or  
13 group of activities highlighting an agricultural or horticultural  
14 practice or product implemented or grown on a farm. These events  
15 may include, but are not limited to, hay bale races, flower shows,  
16 pumpkin tossing and “punkin chunkin” festivals, tractor pulls, and  
17 similar activities.

18 The bill also provides that the county agriculture development  
19 board may issue an agriculture-related event permit to the owner of  
20 preserved farmland in the county if:

21 1) no more than four permits are issued for the farm per year;  
22 and

23 2) the event only temporarily disturbs the use of the land for  
24 agricultural or horticultural purposes, and does not interfere with  
25 the use of the land for those purposes after the event has concluded.

26 The bill specifies that holding an agriculture-related event for  
27 which a permit has been issued shall not be considered a violation  
28 of any agricultural deed restriction for farmland preservation on the  
29 land if the person holding the event complies with the terms and  
30 conditions of the permit as it was issued.